

Response May 16, 2007
Application No. 10/647,247
Attorney Docket No. 031029

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-19 are pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the finality of the present Office Action dated April 17, 2007 is premature.

In the previous Office Action dated October 16, 2006, claims 2 and 4 were not rejected based on **Kanda** (EP 1152036). The previous Office Action also did not allege that Kanda discloses the features recited in claims 2 and 4.

On January 16, 2007, Applicants filed an amendment in which claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 4.

The present Office Action dated April 17, 2007, rejected amended claim 1 and made the rejection final. (Office Action, page 4.)

Since original claims 2 and 4 were not previously rejected and claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of original claims 2 and 4, the rejection of amended claim 1 is a new ground of rejection which was not necessitated by Applicants' amendment.

Therefore, the Office Action dated April 17, 2007 should not have been made final.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action dated April 17, 2007 is hereby solicited.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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